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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE

Letter dated 10 December 2001 from the Permanent Observer for Palestine to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Israeli occupation forces persist in their policy of imposing severe collective punishments on innocent civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory, demolishing homes, confiscating Palestinian land to build new Israeli settlements thereon and expand the already existing ones, shelling Palestinian residential buildings through air and ground attacks with tank shells, helicopter missiles and machine guns, conducting military incursions into Palestinian-controlled areas, imposing siege and closures on Palestinian towns and villages, uprooting fruit trees and destroying several acres of farmland, thus causing wide fear and anxiety among the civilians and leaving behind them tens of killed, injured, detained, abducted and homeless and wide destruction of property.

In flagrant violation of international law, international humanitarian law, the Fourth Geneva Convention which seeks to protect the lives of protected persons, and in grave breach of human rights norms that affirm the right to life, Israeli occupation forces committed another crime of extrajudicial execution on 28 November, whereby a Palestinian civilian, 30-year-old Rami Mansour, from Al-Shuja'iyah neighbourhood was shot and left to die, bleeding for a long time while ambulances were prevented from reaching him. They assassinated 35-year-old Mahmoud Abu Hannoud and the two brothers, 28-year-old Ma'moun and 34-year-old Ayman Hashaykeh, in Nablus on 23 November 2001.

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Also on 23 November, Israeli occupation troops targeted a Palestinian car near Rafah City, killing 25-year-old Ahmad Al-Hinawi; an Israeli bullet hit him in the head. Fifty-year-old Hadia Salameh and her son Awadh and his wife Ikram were also severely injured in the incident. In another incident in Gaza on the same day, Israeli occupation troops killed 15-year-old Wa'el Radhwan.

In the morning of 12 November, Israeli occupation forces, armed with 20 military jeeps and at least 10 tanks, accompanied by Apache helicopters roaming in the air, invaded the village of Tel, south of Nablus city, raided tens of civilian homes, terrorizing their residents, assassinated a defenceless man, 25-year-old Mohamed Al-Raihan, in a senseless crime of summary execution, arrested at least 40 civilians and demolished a number of homes.

In Khan Yunis on 22 November, five boys, aged 6 to 14, all from the same extended family, were on their way to school near the Khan Yunis refugee camp when a bomb planted by Israeli commandos exploded, killing them instantly. The victims' parents were only able to identify their loved ones from the burnt and torn schoolbooks they left behind. The five boys are: 6-year-old Akram, 13-year-old Mohamed, 9-year-old Anees, 12-year-old Omar and 13-year-old Mohamed, all from the Al-Astal extended family.

Israeli occupation authorities also continue to spread terror in Palestinian cities and towns, blindly targeting civilians and residential areas, where defenceless women and children are murdered in their own homes. Wafaa' Nassif, a young mother, was fatally shot in her own home in Tulkarem on 13 November, when Israeli occupation forces opened unprovoked and indiscriminate fire on homes in Irtah valley. Four other civilians suffered shrapnel wounds during the Israeli offensive.

As for the aggressive Israeli measures taken against civilians at checkpoints, they have not only caused agony to Palestinian civilians who face daily aggression, humiliation and needless delays, they have also cost hundreds of Palestinian lives. Fifty-six-year-old Sami Al-Bassaleh died in the early hours of 21 November after he had been prohibited twice from seeking urgent medical treatment.

Fifty-five-year-old Mohammed Al-Ziben from Kufur Rumman in Tulkarem died on 13 November at one of these many checkpoints. Israeli occupation forces prohibited him from reaching a hospital in Nablus, where he needed to undergo dialysis.

On Friday, 9 November, Israeli troops at Gani Tal settlement seriously wounded Sameer Abu Haleeb in the side and the right leg. The man died later in hospital.

In the Gaza Strip on the same day, Israeli soldiers in Neve Dakalim settlement opened fire on Palestinian children playing near their homes in Khan Yunis. Ahmad Mustafa, 13, was wounded seriously in the head during the unprovoked Israeli assault. He was admitted to hospital where he passed away on Monday, 12 November 2001.

Since the outbreak of the Israeli hostilities on 29 September 2000, at least 80 Palestinian activists have been killed through the illegal assassination policy conducted by Israel, some of whom were bystanders, bringing the total number of martyrs as of the end of November 2001 to nearly 879 and the total wounded to nearly 28,747, about 2,200 of whom sustain permanent handicaps.

In follow-up to the lists of the names of martyrs annexed to some of my previous letters, namely the one dated 5 October 2001, herewith enclosed* is a list with the names of martyrs for the period from 30 September to 29 November 2001.

We once again reiterate our appeal to Your Excellency, and through you to the international community, to call on Israel to withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territory if peace and security are to be restored in the area, to ease the suffocating Israeli restrictions imposed at checkpoints, to ease the siege imposed on Palestinian towns and villages which is leading the Palestinian people to starvation, to bring an end to the Israeli military campaign being waged against the Palestinian people, to demand that Israel stop acting with complete impunity and disregard for international law and to provide immediate international protection to the civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories.

I would be grateful if you would have this letter with its enclosure circulated as an official document of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 8.

(Signed): Nabil RAMLAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

* Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.

Annex

List of Palestinian Martyrs - 2001

30/9/2001

Husni Abu Leil	19 years old	Nablus
Khalil Sarafandi	50 years old	Nablus
Nidal Fakhouri	25 years old	Hebron
Walid Al-Ahmad	27 years old	Salfit

3/10/2001

Abdullah Sha'ban	20 years old	Gaza
Ibrahim Rayyan	19 years old	Gaza
Nour Aldin Qweider	25 years old	Gaza
Mahmoud Abu Hani	27 years old	Gaza
Wael Awwad	25 years old	Gaza
Sayyed Zeyadeh	24 years old	Gaza
Maher Khudeir	23 years old	Gaza
Mahmoud Shorafa	25 years old	Gaza

4/10/2001

Mohammad Sharabasi	28 years old	Hebron

5/10/2001

Raed Abu Daoud	23 years old	Hebron
Hazem Amro	27 years old	Hebron
Iyad Qufeisheh	28 years old	Hebron
Mohammad Qufeisheh	34 years old	Hebron
Qassim Abu Afeefeh	48 years old	Hebron

6/10/2001

Hamza Qawasmi	24 years old	Hebron
Amjad Qawasmi	24 years old	Hebron

7/10/2001

Raed Shareef	22 years old	Hebron
Ahmad Abu Midraj	18 years old	Tubas

8/10/2001

Abdulrahman Abu Ereiban	30 years old	Gaza

9/10/2001

Jam'an Abu-Alsawawein	29 years old	Gaza
Talal Abu Hweishel	28 years old	Gaza
Ahmad Eteiwi	25 years old	Gaza

10/10/2001

Moh'd Abu Al-Rous	33 years old	Gaza

11/10/2001

Hani Rawajyeh	24 years old	Nablus

13/10/2001

Abdulrahman Hammad	34 years old	Qalqilyah

15/10/2001

Ahmad Marshoud	24 years old	Nablus

16/10/2001

Ahmad Ebayyat	24 years old	Bethlehem
Iyad Al-Akhras	28 years old	Gaza

18/10/2001

Mohammad Abu Ras	20 years old	Ramallah
Marwan Khaleefah	25 years old	Ramallah
Riham Abu El-Ward	10 years old female	Jenin
Atef Ebayyat	30 years old	Bethlehem
Jamal Abdullah	33 years old	Bethlehem
Eisa Ebayyat	28 years old	Bethlehem

19/10/2001

Mousa ABu Eid	20 years old	Beit-Jala
Jawdat Hamad	21 years old	Gaza
Maryam Salah	36 years old female	Bethlehem
Abdulqader Abu Srour	25 years old	Bethlehem
Saed Al-Aqra'	24 years old	Ramallah
Basil Mobasher	13 years old	Gaza

20/10/2001

Johny Thaljeyyeh	18 years old	Bethlehem
Yousif Ebayyat	15 years old	Bethlehem
Aysheh Abu Odeh	36 years old female	Bethlehem
Ranya Kharouf	23 years old female	Bethlehem
Rihab Noufal	31 years old female	Bethlehem
Samer Shawahneh	21 years old	Qalqilyah
Mustafa Noufal	22 years old	Qalqilyah
Mustafa Zeitawi	53 years old	Tulkarem
Maher Abu Hasna	33 years old	Tulkarem

21/10/2001

Ahmad Abu Mandil	17 years old	Gaza
Ghada Abu Eishah	18 years old	Jenin
Eisa Abu Hleil	28 years old female	Beit-Jala
Mohammad Baraq'ah	32 years old	Bethlehem

22/10/2001

Yousif Alsheikh Abed	60 years old	Tulkarem
Nidal Elayyan	19 years old	Bethlehem
Ayman Halawah	26 years old female	Nablus
Yousif Ayesh	33 years old	Bethlehem

23/10/2001

Naser Qur'an	13 years old	Qalqilyah
Bader Al-Sha'er	50 years old	Tulkarem
Tal'at Jaber	19 years old	Tulkarem

24/10/2001

Mohammad Sama'neh	24 years old	Nablus
Ayman Jallad	20 years old	Tulkarem
Mahmoud Jallad	21 years old	Tulkarem
Saleh Asi	23 years old	Tulkarem
Marwan Halabeyyeh	20 years old	Jerusalem
Kamel Barghouti	20 years old	Ramallah
Harees Hajjo	29 years old	Nablus
Qassim Moghrabi	26 years old	Gaza
Rafeeq Saqer	25 years old	Gaza
Eisa Al-Ali	55 years old	Bethlehem

25/10/2001

Salameh Al-Debs	38 years old	Bethlehem
Wael Elayyan	22 years old	Bethlehem
Firas Salahat	29 years old	Bethlehem
Fareed Abu Jalaleh	22 years old	Bethlehem
Haytham Abu-Samehdaneh	23 years old	Gaza
Hasan Abu Serreyeh	43 years old	Tulkarem

26/10/2001

Eid Abu Sharkh	25 years old	Gaza
Othman Razayneh	22 years old	Gaza
Iyad Al-Batsh	21 years old	Gaza
Foad Dahshan	27 years old	Gaza

27/10/2001

Firas Jaber	24 years old	Tulkarem

31/10/2001

Jamil Jadallah		Gaza
Abdulla Jaroushi	42 years old	Tulkarem
Mohammad Ghannam	30 years old	Jenin
Rabei' Ghannam	22 years old	Jenin
Mohammad Abu Jamil	40 years old	Qalqilyah
Raed El-Akhras	25 years old	Qalqilyah

1/11/2001

Yaser Sayati		Tulkarem
Fahmi Abu Eisheh		Tulkarem

3/11/2001

Salah Ghazali	45 years old	Gaza

4/11/2001

Hatim Shweiki		Tulkarem

5/11/2001

Abdulnaser Hudeib	35 years old	Jerusalem
Saeed Abu Shmeis	26 years old	Ramallah

6/11/2001

Iyad Khatib	28 years old	Nablus
Ali Abu Hejleh	22 years old	Nablus
Jamal Mallouh	23 years old	Nablus
Ekremah Esteeteh	35 years old	Jenin
Majdi Jaradat	32 years old	Jenin

7/11/2001

Eisa Dababseh	45 years old	Hebron
Mohammad Kaskeen	25 years old	Gaza
Mohammad Al-Qedra	23 years old	Gaza

8/11/2001

Abdulrahman Abu Ereiban	30 years old	Gaza
Mousa Abu A'yya	57 years old	Gaza

9/11/2001

Mo'ayad Salahuldin	24 years old	Tulkarem
Sameer Abu Haleeb	30 years old	Gaza

11/11/2001

Omar Abu Zeid	28 years old	Bethlehem

12/11/2001

Ahmad Abu Mustafa	13 years old	Gaza
Mohammad Hamad	25 years old	Nablus

13/11/2001

Mohammad Zeben	55 years old	Tulkarem
Wafaa Naseef	28 years old female	Tulkarem

15/11/2001

Suheil Abu Saleh	27 years old	Gaza

18/11/2001

Taher Zeid	17 years old	Jenin
Ibrahim Saed	70 years old female	Gaza

19/11/2001

Maher Daghlas	22 years old	Nablus
Medhat Abu Dalal	32 years old	Gaza
Mohammad Hasan	35 years old	Gaza

21/11/2001

Sami Basaleh	56 years old	Gaza

22/11/2001

Akram N. Astal	6 years old	Gaza
Mohammad N. Astal	12 years old	Gaza
Anees I. Astal	10 years old	Gaza
Omar I. Astal	11 years old	Gaza
Mohammad S. Astal	12 years old	Gaza

23/11/2001

Wael Radwan	15 years old	Gaza
Ahmad Hinnawi	25 years old	Gaza
Mohammad S. Samaneh	21 years old	Nablus
Mohammad I. Samaneh	20 years old	Nablus
Mahmoud Abu Hanoud	35 years old	Nablus
Ayman R. Hashaykeh	30 years old	Nablus
Mamoun R. Hashaykeh	33 years old	Nablus

25/11/2001

Kifah Ubeid	13 years old	Bethlehem

26/11/2001

Tayseer Ajrami	25 years old	Gaza

27/11/2001

Abdulkareem Abu Na'seh	23 years old	Jenin
Mustafa Abu Sereyeh	21 years old	Jenin
Osama Helles	23 years old	Gaza

28/11/2001

Ibrahim Ghalami	80 years old	Nablus

29/11/2001

Hasan Zbeidi	25 years old	Nablus
Rashad Muhanna	37 years old	Tulkarem
Rami Mansour	30 years old	Gaza

Palestine Ministry of Information